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ADDRESS

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Mr. G. D. NAIDU

on the occasion of a tea party
given in honour of

His Excellency

The Hon'ble Sir Arthur Hope G.C.I.E., M.C.,

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS

on Wednesday the 13th February 1946
at "Gopal Bagh" Avanashi Road,
COIMBATORE

AND

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

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His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, G. C. I. E., M. C., Governor of Madras was entertained at a grand tea party by Mr. G. D. Naidu on the 13th February, 1946 at his residence at 5 p. m. More than 1500 guests including Military personnel were present. Prominent among those were Mr. & Mrs. F. W. A. Morris, Brigadier R. J. D. Teague, Brigadier V. T. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Burton, Colonel & Mrs. L. B. Tottenham, Colonel & Mrs. Collingwood, Lieut. Colonel T. G. Macaulay, Dr. & Mrs. J. J. Rudra, Mr. & Mrs. K. Srinivasan, Major Guman Singh, Major P. J. Kelley, Dr. Wignaraja of Colombo, Mr. & Mrs. S. P. Thompson, Mr., Mrs. & Miss. Roy, Mr. K. W. Taylor, Rotarian District Governor, Mr. A. Gardiner, Representative of the Rotary International, Mr. & Mrs. Trelevean, Mr. H. D. Latham, O. B. E., Mr. & Mrs. Narayana Iyengar, Major D. A. R. Elliot, Major S. R. Sarma, Mr. A. Khaleeli, I. C. S., Director of Industries, Mr. V. V. L. Rao, Radio Engineer, Lieut. Colonel & Mrs. E. A. Richards, Captain J. Brown, Dewan Bahadurs P. S. G. Rangaswami Naidu & C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliar, Captain & Mrs. Baker, The Raja of Kollengode, Rao Bahadurs R. Guruswami Naidu, V. Gopal Naidu, & S. V. V. Naidu, Dr. O. J. Correlli, Mr. E. H. Stanes, The Zamindar of Uthukuli, Commander C. W. Croxford, Messrs. K. Gopal Rao, Mr. A. Shunmugham, V. Kanakasabai Nadar, Mr. & Mrs. L. G. Balakrishnan,

Dr. N. Velappan, Messrs. C. D. Thulasirama Mudaliar, Paul Vincent, Rao Bahadur A. T. Krishnaswami Mudaliar, Mr. E. C. Allardice, Mrs. & Captain W. N. Datta & all the delegates of the Fourth Conference of the 91st District Rotary International and several others.

After the speech of Mr. Naidu and His Excellency's reply, the party terminated at 6-15 p. m. with three cheers to His Excellency by the students of the Arthur Hope Polytechnic.

Address by Mr. G. D. Naidu

" Your Excellency, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am grateful to Your Excellency for having so kindly accepted to attend the function today. Though this party is mainly in the nature of a farewell to Your Excellency, it happily serves also as the occasion of the anniversary of the Arthur Hope Polytechnic and an address on behalf of the citizens of Coimbatore with certain requests to Your Excellency. During the same month last year Your Excellency was here to open the Arthur Hope Polytechnic and on that occasion, you almost bade us farewell, since you expected to leave for England in March. It made us all happy that you stayed on for a year more and it is a matter of particular pleasure to us at Coimbatore that you are here today, on what I may call the first birthday of the Arthur Hope Polytechnic.

I would like to say here just a few words regarding the progress of this institution during the last year and some of my own experiences as Honorary Director. At the end of three months after admission of candidates, those who were found unsuitable on account of ill-health, lack of aptitude for the profession or lack of respect for discipline etc. were sent away. It is my opinion that such a procedure in the final selection of candidates is necessary, so that time and money are not wasted on undesirable candidates. In the method of teaching I found that instead of separate theory and practical classes, it is best that during the practical work, the lecturers and demonstrators are with the students, and explain to them all the theory that is necessary as occasions arise. Extra classes outside class hours were held in which the students themselves addressed the classes on certain topics and such classes were made use of by me in enabling the students to get rid of bad habits like smoking and too much drinking of coffee etc., and also to mould their character and to learn to prosper in business. The only holidays that the students had were Sundays and in this respect, this institution is exceptional, as the educational institutions in India hold the world-record for holidays. The students' hostel was first handed over by me to a Warden and is now being run by the students themselves. The rice that was needed for the hostel is being specially grown on leased lands in

Gobichettipalayam, the vegetables are grown in my own garden; and cows and buffaloes have been purchased and are being maintained for supplying the hostel with the best milk and the menu has been so drawn that each student gets not less than 2600 calories of nourishing food per day. A condition was made that any student who, at such a growing age, inspite of this food, lost more than 5 lbs. in weight within 3 months would be sent away and that if any cook or other members of the staff gained more than 5 lbs. in weight would also be sent away. As a result, 15 students and two cooks had to leave. All students except three gained weight varying from 3 to 14 lbs. Finally I consider that as far as the standard of the Government Examination is concerned, with the training my students have already received, 75% of them are sure to pass, but my aim is to see that not only will all of them pass but they will also turn out to be first class engineers. Regarding scholorships, I have been giving nine scholarships of Rs. 20/- each for the first year students and I will be giving 18 next year and 20 in the 3rd year - all of the same amount. I am glad that the Government also have promised to give the same number of scholarships to the students of the Polytechnic. I hope that Your Excellency will have in mind the students that will pass out of this Polytechnic and Arthur Hope College of Technology and will render them parental guidance when they go to England for further training.

There are two other matters, Your Excellency, in which we the citizens of Coimbatore are deeply interested. One is regarding the future of Arthur Hope College of Technology. I have already written to Your Excellency two months ago that this College ought to be expanded to include well-equipped and well-staffed departments of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Geology and Economics so that this institution may play a worthy part and fill a gap that would arise, during the post-war period which would need Engineers and graduates highly specialised in all such applied sciences. It is easy to envisage that, with the Agricultural and Forest Colleges in Coimbatore and with the need for B. Sc. course in the subjects mentioned, there is a realistic and practical scope for a seperate University to arise here at Coimbatore in the near future. Perhaps Madras friends including our Director of Industries, Mr. Khaleeli may not support this idea, as they want everything in Madras. I trust however that Your Excellency has already taken action in the matter as promised, and before you leave, we hope that these departments will be sanctioned and established.

I am glad to announce to the guests here that His Excellency visited the Arthur Hope College of Technology yesterday and discussed about the extent of land required for the location of the College. He has agreed to acquire 1000 acres for that purpose. It is a matter of regret that

all the proposed national laboratories are going to be established only in Northern India. When I asked a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council why Madras Presidency should be neglected he told me that the Tatas are offering ten lacs of rupees, and hence they are going to establish one of the laboratories in Poona while other laboratories are going to be located in Jamshedpur, Calcutta, Delhi and Danbad all, in Northern India. I asked the Member if I offered 20 lacs of rupees to the Central Government, whether they would be pleased to establish a laboratory in the Andamans! Expecting that if South India presses the claims, the laboratories may be located here, I requested His Excellency to acquire more lands. You will be also glad to know that His Excellency has agreed to acquire 100 acres for the Arthur Hope Polytechnic in addition to 1000 acres being acquired for the College.

The other matter is with regard to the raising to the status of a First Grade College, the present Government College which has continued for decades to stagnate as a Second Grade College, while less important districts than Coimbatore have long ago started First Grade Colleges. Our young men of the district are being put to a great deal of difficulty and inconvenience in having to migrate to colleges in other districts, which are themselves already over - crowded. We strongly believe that it will be possible to commence a First Grade College in the

ensuing academic year itself, as promised, and that before your departure, all budget and necessary arrangements will be sanctioned.

Your Excellency, I have just stated these things, only because we may not have another opportunity of representing these things to you but today is an occasion where our hearts are concentrated on the thought of your impending departure.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have known His Excellency for the last 5 years. The first time I saw His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope was in the Slater Hall at Coimbatore in February 1941 where he was addressing a public meeting, rousing the audience to a greater war effort. I was so struck by his powerful personality, sincerity of purpose, strength of conviction and soundness of his arguments that I decided to help the Government in whatever humble way I could. What little I may have done to further the cause of war, Industrial education, industrialisation in our Province and training of War Technicians etc. bears testimony to the influence of His Excellency over men of this Province. I have heard him speak on numerous occasions, met him in a few parties and invited him to some functions and with each contact has grown my deep admiration for both his administrative and human qualities.

What His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope has achieved as an administrative head of a big Province like Madras during the most troublesome period of six years that any Governor of a province had to face either now or during the long period of British rule, is, shall I say, already passing into History and I will be wasting an effort in trying to enumerate all that he has done to the Province. A casual perusal of the dailies, particularly of this Province, will easily show the enormous amount of work that His Excellency has been doing day in and day out incessantly during the last six years, at great cost to his health and his personal comforts, without pomp or ceremony, now in one corner of the Province, next in another; addressing meetings, exhorting people for their contribution, physical and financial to the war; inspecting schemes and projects; opening Institutions, Educational, Industrial and Charitable, interviewing scores of people, redressing their grievances or encouraging them in their good work; and with all this, personally attending to files and all administrative matters, guiding and pushing up plans and schemes for war and peace. All this, by one man, faced in his administration by non-co-operation of political parties and without a legislature to help him to know the feelings of the people! I can only say that it was a superhuman task which could have been accomplished by no other than His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope. In some measure, it was my privelege to

come into contact with His Excellency in certain important administrative matters, and his methods of handling the affairs concerned easily convinced me of his greatness as an administrator and as a man. The courtesy and informality with which he receives people, the deep and sincere consideration which he gives to the matter under discussion, the perfect candour with which he talks, the incredible quickness with which he acts on whatever he promises and his high sense of justice are a few of the many good qualities which have struck me as being responsible for having made His Excellency one of the most successful administrators which the British were ever able to send over to India. Undue delays have always been one's normal experience in breaking through the steel wall of civilian administration and red tape of officiousness. But I have had enough experience of His Excellency to assert that in all important matters, His Excellency cut across red tapism and got things done in record time. This is the real explanation for the progress that this Province has shown in all matters, educational, agricultural, industrial, political, economical etc., during His Excellency's regime. I may state here as an instance that the Arthur Hope College of Technology which was opened by His Excellency in July of this year at Coimbatore was established within the record time of 42 days, a record which has never to my knowledge been equalled in the annals of establishment

of educational institutions of this kind and which could never have been achieved but for the great personal interest which His Excellency has taken in every matter that effects the welfare of the Province. I broached to His Excellency the subject of the great need for establishing an Engineering College at Coimbatore on May 28th and His Excellency himself opened the College on 9th July, in 42 days! Examples of great institutions like this springing up almost over night as if by the magic wand of His Excellency are common to us in this Presidency.

About the human qualities which have made His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope a unique and charming personality, I need not also stress much, since the affection with which he is held by the people of the Province is in itself a tribute to those qualities. However, what has impressed me most in my contact with him is his democratic behaviour to all, irrespective of position and the courtesy with which he puts men at ease the moment he begins to talk to them. He gives one the homely impression of talking to a well-wisher, a quality rarely found in the exalted! Particularly in parties, one misses all the useless ceremony, pomp, and bandobust which used to be characteristic of arrivals of Governors and Viceroys. He just walks into a function or a party, quite at home amidst the crowd, radiating good

followship and warmth to the people, freely mixing with them. In one of the functions to which I had the pleasure of inviting His Excellency, I was previously cautioned by an important official who was responsible for arrangements for His Excellency's programme not to introduce more than 20 most important people as it would tire His Excellency, but when I commenced introducing them, His Excellency did not stop till he knew every one of the 120 people that had assembled there! He has found himself so thoroughly at home with the people of this Province and has got so attached to them that every Madrasi is his friend. In a speech in the opening function of the Arthur Hope Polytechnic at Coimbatore in February 1945, at which time he expected to leave Madras by March, he invited every member of the audience, small and big, to visit him in London whenever any of them should happen to be there and he assured them of a very hearty welcome, "if not in the Government House, at any rate in my prefabricated house." Those who heard him knew that he was not being formal, but most sincere.

I would like to summarise and say this. He is a great leader, as he has led the Province through the most difficult period of war, from achievement to achievement, till Madras, among all Provinces, became a name to contend with, in every aspect of contribution to Victory and has

established a permanent, undying fame for the Madras Regiment, removing a slur on the Province whose people were considered not very "Martial." He is a great administrator, since he has so administered the affairs of the Province under the most adverse conditions that misery to the people, of any kind was the least known in this Province. He is a great orator, since every time he was to address any public meeting, people assembled in thousands to hear him speak and in this he was easily the envy of even the greatest of our leaders. He is a great politician and diplomat, since during his regime the political difficulties amidst a sweeping All-India unrest were at the lowest and even his political opponents conceded his sense of fairness in politics. He is a great educationist since he has been responsible for the opening of numerous educational institutions. He is a great industrialist as evidenced by the industrial progress the Province has made during his time. Above all, he is a great man with such charming human qualities as to endear every man who came into contact with him.

As far as Her Excellency Lady Hope is concerned she was deeply interested in the women of our province. Soon after her arrival in India she started making contacts with women of all shades and status of our country and studied their disabilities and interested

herself in all aspects of social work and especially in improving the nursing system. She will for long be remembered for her work as the President of the Indian Hospitality Committee which did great service to the Indian Troops. She has also been associated with several institutions meant for the amelioration of the conditions of the people of this country among which may be mentioned the Madras Childrens' Aid Society, the Vigilance Association and the New India Planning Group.

We wish their Excellencies long life, happiness and prosperity and we earnestly hope that in the years to come, they will not forget us, the people of Coimbatore."

H. E. The Governer's Speech

"Mr. Naidu, Mr. Morris, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am most grateful to Mr. Naidu for the opportunity of my coming here this evening and addressing such a very large gathering. Not only myself but I am sure everybody will testify to the hospitality. I listened with great interest and some emotion to your speech just now. After six years in the position I have been, it is very sad to have to go away. Well, everything has to come to an end in this world and whatever position one has got, it has to go some time or other. I am most grateful for what you said, and I think, oversaid about the work I have done. I have quite frankly during these years, tried to do my best, during the war, and since the war ended, for the people generally of the Madras Presidency. For many years, and I won't say whose fault it is, Madras was known as the benighted presidency. Madras is a long way from Delhi and was very often forgotten. But now I think we can say, owing to the effort of the people of Madras, both officials and non-officials, Madras is now known in Delhi just as the Punjab or any other Province. I am pleased at that.

I am very sorry indeed this is my farewell visit to Coimbatore. I had farewell parties last year. I think

this time it is the final one. I really would like to thank the people of Coimbatore for the help they have given. I do not want to repeat myself. I have no gifts of saying something different from one end to another. I enjoyed coming to Coimbatore on every possible occasion. I enjoyed the hospitality of everybody in this town. I feel Coimbatore has a great future. It is going to be a great town in years to come. And if I have an opportunity, which I hope I may have, of coming back here as a private individual, I shall very much look forward and enjoy your private hospitality as an individual, which you have given me as Governor.

Ladies and gentlemen, there have been very difficult years. I have tried to do the best I possibly could to help the Madras Presidency. We have recognised and realised much more than any other province. Mr. Naidu has mentioned quite a number of things some controversial, and some which you may not altogether agree with. I have a short time before I leave. But the things which Mr. Naidu has mentioned I will certainly go into at once. I am glad to see the development of this town and I am glad to see that it has so developed during my time as Governor here. When I hand over to my successor I would certainly mention many things. My successor is a very eminent man. He held a very high position during the war and I am quite certain that you will give

him all that support which you have given me. And believe me, I mean from the bottom of my heart, without that support we could not have got through what we have done.

Although the war is over, our difficulties are not over. We are going to have a great deal of trouble and difficulty. We are going to have long trouble especially on the economic and food situation. We are going in the next few months to face realities in a way which a great number of people do not seem to realise at the present moment. It is not at all a question of British rule or national rule or Congress rule or Muslim League rule. It is a question of absolute facts we have got to face up to. It is one of the worst years in the whole history of the world. Although peace has come and war has ended, nevertheless we have got less food in the world now than we had for many years. I would appeal to everybody to face those facts and to cut down food consumption to a very great degree. All of you here and myself can cut down quite a lot. We may have less rice. I have seen the figures all over India and what we are likely to get overseas, and the situation is very serious indeed. And it is up to us, especially educated people those who can do without their extra comforts, to cut it out as far as possible. The world shortage is very great. You had six years of war coming after economic

troubles for years. We have got to realise that the world is not what it was in 1914. We have got to face the facts of the present time. There are millions of people who are on the verge of starvation whether in Europe or in China, and may be to a certain extent in this country as well. But we have got to set an example, we who are leaders and who are here in one capacity or another. Preach the doctorine of austerity, and follow it up. Next year, things may be very much better. None of us knows. Things may improve in this country and in other places. But this year is going to be a very very difficult year. I would ask you most earnestly to do everything you can to help in the situation.

Mr. Naidu, I am most grateful for your hospitality. I am most grateful for your help and the help you have given me during the last six years. I appreciate it enormously. It has been of the greatest possible assistance to me. When I come back to India, there will be two places I will go to; one is Ooty and the other is Coimbatore. Thank you very much."

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